

## **Predicaments and Countermeasures Analysis of Chinese Rural Family Support**

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### **Abstract**

*In recent years, pension has become one of the hottest topics, people are paying more and more attention to the pension problem of rural. At present, the mode of supporting the aged in China's rural is varied, but mainly to family support. The key to solve the problem of rural old-age support is the way which making the family as the main body, supplemented by self support, community support and social support. Then building a comprehensive pattern of rural old-age security system which those modes can work together. This paper analyzes the reasons of China's rural old-age family support, the predicaments of rural family support facing, and proposing the measures to improve the family support .*

**Keywords:** Rural, Family Support, Predicament, Countermeasure

### **1. Introduction**

At present, although China's rural old-age mode varied, mainly to family pension. This security model family support has been lasted for thousands of years in China, there must be reasons for its existence and development. But in recent years due to the rural household income level is not high, the lack of responsibility of some young people, coupled with an aging population is serious, a large number of rural population outflow and other factors, led to serious difficulties faced by rural family pension. How to make scientific and reasonable improvement measures for these difficulties? Worthy of our study.

### **2. Existence Reasons Analysis of Chinese Rural Family Support**

The family support has continued for thousands of years and become the main mode of rural old-age security in rural China, what is the reason of existence and development?

#### **2.1 The Economic Reason for the Existence of Rural Family Support**

Our country is a big agricultural state, thousands of years of traditional small-scale peasant economy, the peasants and land is closely tied together, farmers formed the high degree of dependence on the land. The family, the land as a kind of wealth has become the main content of the alternation of generations, the elderly have the absolute right of possession of the land, according to the degree filial children, they can decide who the land allocated. In order to get the land, children must be filial support for the elderly. Therefore, the rural peasant economy is a source of rural family support to produce and continuity. After the reform and opening up, rural productivity unprecedented liberation, economy rapid development, the fruits of labor owned by individuals, which provides a solid foundation for the family pension. Therefore, the household contract responsibility system makes the function of rural family support has been strengthened, the relationship between family members closer. To some extent, it can be said, the household contract responsibility system for the development of China's rural family support mode provides realistic conditions and material basis, as long as the household contract responsibility system in rural areas continue to exist and continue, in a wide range of rural old-age mode must give priority to with family support.

## **2.2 The Cultural Reason for the Existence of Rural Family Support**

Virtues of "filial piety" as the first ! As a country with thousands of years of civilization, a state of ceremonies, China has been put filial piety as one of the important family ethics. "honor the parents, respect the elder" as the main content of filial piety in China also has a long history and solid social foundation. Confucian ethics classic "Book of Filial Piety" believes, "(It was filial piety.) Now filial piety is the root of (all) virtue, (the stem) out of which grows (all moral) teaching", "filial piety is the constant (method) of Heaven, the righteousness of Earth and the practical duty of Man", "The service which a filial son does to his parents is as follows: in his general conduct to them, he manifests the utmost reverence; in his nourishing of them, his endeavor is to give them the utmost pleasure; when they are ill, he feels the greatest anxiety; in mourning for them (dead), he exhibits every demonstration of grief; in sacrificing to them, he displays the utmost solemnity. When a son is complete in these five things, (he may be pronounced) able to serve his parents". Obviously, the Confucian thought of "filial piety" as the code of conduct and moral standard of judging others. In addition, the Han Dynasty's "recommend people noted for their filial piety and moral records" system, plays an important role in the implementation of filial piety. Thus, the filial piety culture influence and constraints, which is beneficial to form the consciousness of people to respect, love and support the old.

## **2.3 The Psychological Reason for the Existence of Rural Family Support**

According to Maslow's "hierarchy of needs" theory, human needs can be divided into five categories: physiological needs, safety needs, social needs, respect needs and self-actualization needs, namely the need to have multiple and hierarchy. Based on the theory of biology, meanwhile, man is one of the social animals, in order to satisfy their needs of higher level, they need communication and interaction in the community, especially the elderly. Once out of production areas, the elderly prone to loneliness, especially in the face of their peers and husband (wife) having left. From the content perspective, the so-called family support includes three aspects: economic support, life care and spiritual comfort. For the first two, with the development of our economy and the adjustment of industrial structure, the social support and community endowment be a good solution, but the role, family support playing in the elderly spiritual comfort, can not be replaced by other models. Exchange of feelings with family members and love joy often become the elderly spiritual, from the demand perspective, they are more likely to achieve the social needs, respect needs and self-actualization needs, to reduce their empty lonely. Therefore, spiritual comfort of this function is the psychological motivation of rural family support.

## **3. The Predicaments of Rural Family Support Facing**

Rural family support has been dominant in the rural old-age mode, but with the deepening of reform and opening up, the establishment of market economic system and the large-scale flow rural population, rural family support is facing some predicaments, for example, economic support insufficient, ill life care, lack of mental comfort.

### **3.1 The Income of Rural Households Is Relatively Low**

On the one hand, the land became the main source of income of family life in the vast rural areas of Chinese, however, the land income: first of all, from the conditions of topography and climatic, meteorological disasters, geological disasters happen frequently in our country, earthquake, debris flow, flood, drought and other natural disasters often threat agricultural production, affecting farmers' income; Secondly, the cost of production increase, the added value of agricultural products is not high, the land productivity decline, so the phenomenon of increasing agricultural production without increasing family income become more and more common; finally, in recent years, with the acceleration of urbanization, rural land occupied appeared frequently, farmer family income level is not high in the increasingly serious problem. On the other hand, forced life pressure, a lot of young migrant workers in rural areas, but the ideas of "having great ambitious for their children"letting some young couple more emphasis on education and training of their children, the limited financial resources tend to be more under generation of growth. According to the sixth national census, there are 40.72 percent of the rural elderly aged 60 years and over relying on family members living sources (table 1), but lower total rural household income, support expense ratio not high, which weaken economic foundation of the family support, it's function can not give full play.

### **3.2 Lack of Responsibility for the Elderly**

Economic development, scientific and technological progress, social change that have changed the environment for human survival and the survival of the state, but also exacerbated the changes in people's way of thinking.

Hedonism, money worship, self-centered ideas not only impact on the traditional virtues of caring and loving for the old, but become a standard part of young people based on value judgments and behavior choices and they are not to honor the elderly as their own instead, the burden of responsibility as the elderly, when the support burden. Family, "the old man is miso dish, children are to dip, dip sauce finished, the dish will throw", this quotation reflects the current deep part of parents to give their children the peace of mind and a sense of filial indifference; society, "Jian Hao; could help or not", the topic is attracting people's attention and heated debate, a "go home often" sing made famous all over the country, revealed many elderly to urgently calls for the children home. Lack of a sense of responsibility for the elderly rural, family support problem become worse and worse.

### **3.3 Aging Population, Increased Demand for Family Support**

With the development of rural economy and improvement of people's living standards, life expectancy of the rural elderly continues to increase, the proportion of the elderly population in the total rural population continues to rise (table 2). Once the elderly sick, disabled or bedridden, living skills decline, demand increased pension, family support which not only increase the burden of economic support, but also provide a living for the family care and spiritual comfort test. Beginning in 1973, the rural population birth rate dropped significantly, especially in recent years, the "4-2-1", "4-2-2" family have appeared to subvert the more children in rural and more traditional concept of blessing. 2010 sixth national census data show that at present Chinese rural population aged 65 years and over dependency ratio of 14.21, a heavy burden on rural family support. Growing aging rural population, declining birth rates, raising relatively high, it is not difficult to draw, the seriousness of the situation of rural family support.

### **3.4 Rural Exodus, Reducing the Supply of Family Support**

According to Economics "rational man" the basic theoretical assumptions can be inferred: a country as long as there is a gap between urban and rural income levels, in order to pursue more economic benefits, it is possible for rural people to flow into city. China is a typical rural dual structure state, namely the coexistence of traditional agriculture and modern industrial, urban per capita income is greater than the rural areas, while the city also provide more opportunities for young workers, so that part of the young rural labor to urban for workers. In addition, students from rural areas after graduating from college, tend to be more willing to stay in urban development. Young people and their parents separate residence, support supply greatly reduced, so that the family support lost power support. Pressure from work and live, workers do not have the time and energy to care for the elderly, not to mention providing life care and spiritual comfort, which has a bad effect on physical and mental health of the elderly.

## **4. Countermeasures of the Rural Family Support Predicaments**

Although the family pension faces enormous challenges, on our historical tradition, the current overall level of economic development and social welfare in rural areas, the family support in our diverse rural old-age security model is still dominant, which is necessary for traditional rural family pension model improvement and innovation. We can imagine, the future of the rural old-age security model, no longer rely solely on traditional family support, family support but in the main, complemented by social support, strengthening community endowment, encouraging self-endowment, establishing of multimode coexistence of rural old-age security system.

### **4.1 Improving the Income Level of Rural Family is the Key**

The primary content of family support is to provide financial support, so the family support needs the backing of a strong economic base. Since the reform and opening, with the rapid development of China's rural economy, farmers' income has greatly improved, but overall, rural per capita net income is limited. Therefore, in order to give full play to the functions of rural family pension, increasing farmers' income is the key. From the rural perspective: firstly, transferring the rural surplus labor, developing the rural economy, encouraging rural young people having ability and idea to start a business in the town, leading farmers to achieve doorstep employment which can increase rural household incomes, but also easy for people to take care of the elderly. Secondly, self-sufficient peasant economy causes the science and technology in China's agricultural productivity contribution income process is low, the current using modern technology transformation of agriculture, increasing agricultural scientific and technological content, improving the quality of agricultural products and agricultural productivity, while speeding up industrial restructuring, increasing scientific and technological innovation. In a word, doing everything possible to increase farmers' income, to provide financial support for rural family support.

From the national point of view: First, agriculture is the foundation of the national economy, it is also a major source of rural household income, but faces with the dual nature and market risks, so countries should strengthen agricultural support and protection, increase food subsidies, improve the scope of subsidies; second, from an economic perspective, the state should establish a "support price" to prevent the low prices of agricultural products, while setting "limit price" control seeds, pesticides, fertilizer prices rise, increasing farmers' income; Third, the state should increase rural family support material incentives, to encourage qualified village setting "respect and care for the old support model family" and "respect and care for the old support exemplary individuals", the rural family support model offered cash rewards. For example, Jiangyin Huaxi Village in Jiangsu Province set up a "Senior Citizen Award", states: the age of 80-year-old villager immediate family members will receive ¥100 each; over 90-year-old villager in immediate family members will receive ¥1,000 each; over 100-year-old villager in immediate family members will receive ¥10,000 each.

#### **4.2 Increasing Publicity and Education of Ethics Is the Secondary**

Under the influence of two thousand years of farming civilization, ethics of filial piety plays an important role in rural family pension continuation, which makes the offspring of parent support by heteronomy behavior over to the conscious behavior. However, the development of the market economy and the impact of modern thought make a part of young people's distort their values. They emphasize the self-centered, pursue hedonism, decrease sense of responsibility to their parents and is not willing to meet their obligations to support the elderly. Aiming at the phenomenon of some people lack of ethics, to strengthen the education of filial piety, to respect for the elderly, to promote the main content of filial piety. In addition, the vast rural areas, villagers exchange and communicate frequently; they are more likely to pay attention to the people around them on their own evaluation and views, so the villagers committee and the majority of farmers should play an active role in their supervision and examination. Giving more encouragement and propaganda to the collective and individual loving the elderly, but criticizing and blaming the people failing to perform their obligations to their parents. To create a good atmosphere of family support in the countryside through publicity and education of filial piety.

#### **4.3 Building of Multilevel Old-Age Security System Is Supplement**

The advantages of family support in the rural old-age security is to provide spiritual comfort for the rural elderly people, but due to the limitation of economic income, family support in the process of work is also facing the challenges, while self-pension, community pension and social pension community highlight the advantages gradually. Therefore, improvement of the rural old-age security model is the basic idea of this stage: the family pension based, complemented by self-support, community support and social support to build multimode co-existence of rural old-age security system. First, self support, productivity development and social wealth increased dramatically, compared with agricultural civilization under the condition of limited income, per capita income now have to meet the remaining outside of survival, which provides strong material reserve for the rural elderly self pension. Meanwhile, according to the survey, the majority of China's rural elderly have industrious habits, they advanced in age, but physical fitness is better, often willing to engage in labor within their capabilities. As a result, they could achieve the old age support with joy; then are able to reduce the burden on their children. Therefore, village organizations at all levels should provide more opportunities to create favorable conditions to encourage older people having the ability to engage in labor, striving to achieve some autotrophic or completely autotrophic. Second, community support, community support as the connection of family pension and social endowment, should actively play its role in rural security.

Specifically, on the one hand, according to the needs of the elderly, establishing community endowment service agencies, regularly organizing personnel to provide door-to-door service, life care and spiritual comfort, holding the elderly knowledge lectures and the old cultural entertainment activities, to enrich their life; on the other hand, in the process of promoting community construction, the third departments should play a function in the development of community charity, public welfare activities. The full realization of the development and utilization of the endowment rural community resources<sup>[8]</sup>. Third, the social support, in promoting rural social endowment insurance, while the government should play the main role, especially in the new rural construction process, this measure is particularly important. The current development of rural social endowment insurance focus is to: increasing government funding to expand pension coverage; strengthening the supervision of pensions to ensure its ability to increase the value; improving the payment amount to enhance the enthusiasm of farmers to participate.

Self support, community support and social support as supplements in the form of old-age pension of rural households can make up for the lack of family support to some extent and further promote the level of protection for the elderly in rural areas.

#### 4.4 Strengthening the Construction of Legal System is the Guarantee

In recent years, the cases of beatings, humiliation, abandonment of the elderly constantly exposed, part of the children have nothing to fear, trampled upon legitimate rights and interests of the elderly, do not fulfill their obligations to support the elderly. It seems that relying on traditional moral power is not enough to awaken people consciousness of respecting and loving the elderly. Thus, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of legal system and legal sanction on the behavior of the people not caring for the elderly. Internationally, Singapore is one of the relatively successful state among those countries carrying out family support system. In November 1995, Singapore promulgated the "*Maintenance of Parents Act*" stipulates that those who refuse to support or aid their elderly parents and parents living in poverty, their parents may apply to court. If the defendants do not comply with "*maintenance parents act*", the court will decide on its fine of S \$ 10,000 or sentenced to one year in prison. In June 1996, according to the law, Singapore set up a maintenance of parents arbitral tribunal, the arbitral tribunal shall consist of lawyers, social workers and citizens composition, then served as the presiding magistrate.

Arbitration procedure is to mediation first, if mediation fails, then the trial and judgment by the Court of Arbitration. From the domestic situation, in order to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the elderly, China's "*constitution*", "*senior citizen rights and interests protection law*", "*marriage law*" have made about supporting the old regulations. July 1, 2013the new implementation of the "*senior citizen rights and interests protection law*" is to "go home often " into the law, and shall not often visit the elderly will break the law, which is undoubtedly a great gospel for the elderly. But most of China's implementation of the law only requires children to the elderly what to do, and the children in violation of the law should be subject to what the punishment is less constrained, which makes the law of the rights and interests of the elderly lack of operability. How to strengthen China's rural family support system construction aspects of the laws and regulations? It is worth thinking about. Firstly, rural deeply influenced by traditional ideas, making laws and regulations should fully consider the customs and ethics of particularity, so as to ensure its smooth implementation; Secondly, in order to guarantee the effective implementation of laws and effective safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the elderly, the legal system construction should increase penalty clause after children in violation of the law; Finally, after the formulation of laws and regulations to strengthen the propaganda, the village committee should organize the elderly and children to learn. Knowing, understanding, law-abiding, and then effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of the elderly .

#### 5. Conclusions

At present, China's social pension insurance system is not perfect, and the reality of economic development level is relatively backward, so, family support in our diverse rural old-age security model is still dominant. However, the family pension is facing challenges, for example, the rural household income is low, the lack of sense of responsibility for the elderly, the aging population and rural exodus. This requires a positive role to play in rural family pension, we must also mobilize national, collective and personal strength to compensate for the lack of family support.

**Table1: The Main Source of Livelihood Rural Elderly Aged 60 Years and Above**

Source of income	Labor income	Retirement pension	Minimum living allowance	Property income	Other family member provides	Other
Proportion( % )	29.07	24.16	3.89	0.39	40.72	1.83

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of People's Republic of China , China 2010 Census Data

**Table2: 65 Years and Above the China Rural Elderly Population Proportion of the Total Population in Rural Areas**

Year	2000	2010	2020( prediction)
Proportion( %)	7.35	10.06	15.60

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